(b) Yes Sir, Some villagers/farmers who were occupying some portions of the Defence surplus land outside the 200 acres land allotted to CRPF, have submitted a Petition quoting the orders of the Allahabad High Court dated 24.8.92 not to dispossess them of their land. As the land allotted to CRPF was free from encroachment the question of dispossessing the farmers by CRPF does not arise.

(c) to (f) Yes Sir, One Member of Parliament has written to Hon'ble H.M. requesting him to give direction to CRPF to vacate the land. In view of answer given at (a) and (b), the question does not arise.

Export of Wheat

1737. SHRI CHUN CHUN PRASAD YADAV :
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAIKWAD :
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to export wheat to Afghanistan and Maldives;

(b) if so, the value, quantum and rate per quintal of wheat already exported/to be exported to each country;

(c) whether the Government have contracted for the imports of wheat from Canada and Australia; and

(d) if so, the reasons for importing wheat to meet the domestic shortage on the one hand and exporting it on the other ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) Government have allowed export of 30,000 metric tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan from the open market on a request from International Red Cross Society on humanitarian grounds. So far no contract has been finalised with UN Relief Agency for export of wheat to Afghanistan.

Government has also decided to export 2,500 MTs of wheat flour to Maldives from the open market in view of the small quantity involved as a special case. The total value of the contract works out to US $ 7.63 lakhs (equivalent to Rs. 274.5 lakhs) at the rate of US$ 305 per MT C&F Male. Government has since banned issue of new Registration - cum-Allocation Certificate (RCAC) or revalidation of the RCAC already issued for export of wheat and wheat products.

Government have decided to import upto 2 million tonnes of wheat to augment its domestic availability in view of the fall in production of foodgrains in the country and rising prices during 1996-97. Till 14.2.1997, the State Trading Corporation of India has finalised contracts for 16.75 lakh tonnes of wheat from Canada, Australia and Argentina.

Impact of Sugar Licensing Policy

1738. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether NRI, industrialists and Executive Chairman of Sugar and Chemicals industries have criticised the Government's decision to lower the spatial distance between the two sugar factories to 15 kms. from the existing 25 kms.;

(b) if so, the causes cited by them;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether they have hailed the Centre's decision to decanalise sugar exports;

(e) if so, the time by which these decisions are likely to be implemented;

(f) whether the Government's decision to provide incentives for setting up new sugar factories and expanding the existing ones may culminate into an impending food disaster; and

(g) if so, the measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Representations have been received from M/s. The Godavari Sugar Mills Ltd., Sameerwadi Distt. Bijapur, Karnataka & Indian Sugar Mills Association, criticising the Government's decision to lower down the spatial distance between the sugar factories to 15 Kms. from the existing 25 Kms.

According to them, this would render the sugar units totally sick & non-functional.

(c) The spatial distance between the sugar factories has been kept at 15 Kms. for encouraging entrepreneurs.

(d) and (e) A Trade Notice inviting offers for export of sugar under this system has been issued on 17.2.97 by the Agriculture & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).

(f) and (g) The Government of India have decided to have a new incentive scheme for entrepreneurs to whom letters of intent for establishment of new sugar factories and expansions in the existing units were issued after 31.3.94 to mitigate their hardships and to make their projects viable by utilising surplus funds generated through higher free sale quota for repayment of term loans.